

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Current Use of Marijuana by High School Students
Justification	The use of marijuana can produce adverse physical, mental, emotional, and behavioral changes, and can be addictive. Adverse health effects include respiratory illnesses, memory impairment, and weakening of the immune system.
Definition	Percent of students in grades 9 through 12 reporting any use of marijuana within the past 30 days
Data Source	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Frequency	Biennial
Geographic Levels	National and State
Demographic Categories	Grade Level, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity
Strengths	YRBSS estimates are typically based on larger samples than the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and can be further broken down by grade level, gender, and race/ethnicity. Some states also collect YRBSS data for individual communities or school districts, which can be compared with their state-level data.
Limitations	This measure does not capture the frequency or amount of marijuana use. As of 2003, weighted representative samples were available for only 32 states. Not all states participate, and some participating states do not provide representative samples. YRBSS is a school-based survey, so students who have dropped out of school are not represented. It is also subject to bias due to self-report, non-coverage (refusal by selected schools to participate), and non-response (refusal/no answer). Estimates for some demographic subgroups may have relatively low precision (i.e., large confidence intervals).